"A Big Thing."

A friend in Pittsburg has sent us a pamphlet, published in that city, entitled the prospectus of "The Munchausen Philosopher's Stone and Gull Creek Grand Consolidated Oil Company." We make a few extracts, and doubt not our readers will be of our correspondent's opinion, that the company is a "big thing of its kind," and that there is some fun as well as smoke in Pittsburg. As Mr. Squeers remarked, " here's richness."

Capital Stock - - - \$4,000,000,000 Working Capital - - - \$37.50 4,000 Shares - - - \$1,000,000 each. Dividends semi-daily (Sundays excepted.)

TERRITORY. Seven Hundred and Fifty-three Million Acres in fee simple, and the exclusive right to bore on the thirtieth part of an acre on Gull Creek, (Coal privilege on this lease.)

S. W. INDLE, President. D. FAULTER, Treasurer. Hon. R. Ascal, Vice P. S. Teal, Secretary. Oily Gammon, Legal Adviser. John Law, Chief Manager. Lemuel Gulliver, Hon. C. Heat,

Baron Munchausen, Sir John Mandeville, M. Rabelais, S. Kinner, Fernand Juan Mendez Pinto, Sinbad T. H. E. Sailor.

This company, incorporated under the laws of the State of Verdancy, (vide Pampblet Laws, 1873, page 6,061,) having purchased and consolidated tracts amounting in the aggregate to seven hundred and fifty-three million acres in fee simple, are about to open their subscription books for a limited number of shares.

As a safe, paying and permanent investment, it is perhaps the best in the world; and owing to the small amount of the capital, for speculation, the inducements are unequalled.

The Directors are men of undoubted integrity. as a careful examination of their names will show. They will devote their best judgment and energy to the management of the affairs of the Company, and to the care and SAFE-KEEPING of the money of the stockholders. As an evidence of their disinterestedness, it need only be stated that the lands were sold by them to the Company at only 7,500 per cent. advance on the price they originally paid, and they are not desirous of occupying the position of Directors after they have disposed of their stock to the best advantage.

The lands of the Company are easily accessible, and may be reached in a few years by a line of balloons recently established by the Company. It is the earnest desire of the Directors that all persons disposed to subscribe for stock shall visit and examine the lands themselves. THE MUNCHAUSEN TRACT.

This is the largest and best developed tract record was kept of the different strata.

A few extracts will show the wonderful resources of the tract: "April 1st, at the depth of 18 1-3 feet, a vein of 25 feet thick of No. 1 Cooking Butter." This butter is of the highest rank. It can be found on the tables of all the hotels on this continent.

"Immediately succeeding, a vein of No. 6 Lard, based upon a vein of Shoemakers' Wax, 44 feet thick." Government shoe contractors use this instead of glue in fastening the soles on

"On the following Wednesday, at 2 P. M., struck a vein of XXX Ale. This is thrown out in half-barrels, with revenue officer's receipt for the tax on the ale; and also receipts accompanying each barrel, for the income-tax of any person who drinks a glass of it. As the barrels have not to be returned, nothing ails this product of

"The next day, a large vein of Quinine." This is generally administered without charge to any of the stockholders seized with fever, or shaky about the value of their shares.

Some distance below, we struck a vein of Substitutes. Each one had his bounty-money in his pocket, with a certificate that he was a veteran, and would not desert. They have not voted, and may be considered aliens. These wells do not flow on Sunday, which is

abundant testimony of the high moral tone observed in the management of this Company. The following is a list of the articles struck: Cooking Butter, XXX Ale, Cod Liver Oil, Billy Patterson, Quinine, Sardines, Turtle Soup, Lottery Tickets, Bears' Oil, For Higher Wages,

Substitutes, Bounty Money, Greenbacks, Peace Proposition, Milk of Human Kindness, Oil, A THE MOONSHINE TRACT. The land on this tract is heavily timbered with Mahogany, Rosewood, Ebony Sandalwood, Nightblooming Cereus, Century Plants, and other va-

rieties, suitable for building purposes and the manufacture of hermetically sealed barrels. Upon this land, and along the banks of Cheat River, were found some fine diamonds of the first water. The specimen on exhibition at the office is a large and splendid jewel, which far exceeds in lustre the famous Kohinoor, or any other diamond since the great Mogul was cut. The ground was so rich in precious stones that the Surveyor who first laid it out discovered, ere he had half completed his survey, that he had a large carbuncle on his neck.

The most remarkable discovery made was that of an antique copper coin, with heads on both sides; also, some loaded dice, marked cards, and lottery tickets. These are all convincing proofs that Oil Companies must have been known in the remote ages of antiquity.

THE ANANIAS AND SAPPHIRA TRACT. This, though a small tract, embracing only 65,000,000 acres, is worthy of a careful examination by all who desire to invest in the stock of the Company. The first strike was a vein of originators of oil-schemes. Each one had a pros-Pectus containing an accurate description of the property, and stating what percentage per month each Company would pay from its start. Here also was found a *correct* list of the incomes of all persons not connected with the Company.

Immediately succeeding was a vein of Lawyers. This was an unfortunate strike, and far from profitable. They claimed that as they were a part of the land, they had a fee in it. Our learned legal adviser contended, upon the trial, that as they had not been in possession of the surface, or soil, for twenty-one years, they had no title; and further, that as the vein immediately under them was Brimstone, it was evident that they were more than half-way down, and should go to the other side. The Judge in this case decided in favor of both parties, and advised a compromise. This was done in the usual manner: the attorneys of the Company took fiveninths, and the other side took five-ninths, leaving the balance of the property for the Company.

THE CHINA OR HADES TRACT. The whole of this magnificent tract has been, since its survey, the wonder of the world. Every acre is known to be rich in Ten of the most excellent quality. On the 30th of February last, at 3 A. M., after a great deal of gas from each of the seventeen thousand wells, there were thrown out per hour 5,783 chests of Young Hyson, Souchong, Gunpowder, Pennyroyal and Beef Tea; also, T rail. Tariff duties paid. Directions how to imitate Tea and Coffee, an economical method of supplying washerwomen and ton harbor.

GULLIVER AND RHOORBACK TRACT. land, and was laid out by an experienced and average depth is 49,985 feet, being down to the a nunnery in connection with the Roman Catho-

tive gold, corn-starch, fish-hooks, verdigris, pewter inugs, golden syrup, pearlash, hard boiled eggs and lampblack—all of which are being taken out by lateral railroads, from the projecting surface of each vein, and are now sold at highest prices, thereby yielding an incalculable

The flow of oil from all the wells on this tract is so enormous that it was found impossible to provide tanks; and in consequence the Directors have been obliged to purchase and drain Lake

Superior, and use it as a reservoir. N. B.—There must be no delay in subscribing, as our estimable Treasurer, D. Faulter, Esq., is anxious to proceed at once to Europe or Australia, as his labors in behalf of the Company have impaired his health. He will travel incog., as he wishes to avoid notoriety, and see that no one deprives him of the money of the Company. Boston Bulletin.

How Gold Lace is Made.

Gold lace is not gold lace; it does not deserve this title, for the gold lace is applied as surface to the silver. It is not even silver lace, for the silver is applied to a foundation of silk. The silken threads for making this material are wound around with gold wire so thickly as to conceal the silk. The making of this gold wire is one of the most singular mechanical operations imaginable. In the first place, the refiner prepares a solid rod of silver about an inch in thickness; he heats this rod, applies upon the surface a coating of gold leaf, burnishes this down, and so until the gold is about one-hundredth part the thickness of the silver. The rod is subjected to a train of processes which brings it down to the state of fine wire, and it is passed through holes in a steel plate, lessened step by step in diameter. The gold never deserts the silver but adheres closely to it, and shares all its mutations. It is one-hundredth part the thickness of the silver at the beginning, and it maintaids the same ratio to the end.

As to the fineness to which the gold coated rod of silver can be brought, the limit depends upon the delicacy of human skill; but the most remarkable ever known was brought forward by Dr. Wollston. This was an example of solid gold wire, entirely free from silver. He procured a small rod of silver, bored a hole through it from end to end, and inserted in this hole the smallest gold wire he could procure. He subjected the silver to the usual wire drawing process, until he had brought it to the finest attainable state, being a silver wire as thin as hair, with a gold wire in its centre. To isolate this gold wire, he subjected it to a warm nitrous acid, by which the silver was dissolved, leaving a gold wire one thirty-thousandth of an inch in thickness-perhaps the thinnest round wire that

the hand of man ever produced. But this wire, though beyond all comparison finer than any employed in manufacture, does not approach in thinness the film of gold on the owned by the Company. The large shaft on this tract was sunk to the depth of 16,000,011 feet 3 1-10 inches. In sinking the shaft, a careful for gold lace is not more than one-third oneof an inch in thickness of ordinary

Joseph Court, the Historical me. Painter.

The Paris Pays, of January 26th, has the following notice of the death of a notable : Court, historical painter and director of the Museum at Rouen, his native city, recently expired at Paris, in his sixty-seventh year. Joseph Desire Court was the son of a hairdresser. At an early age he displayed a great aptitude for drawings-so much so that it is said that some of his youthful sketches attracted the attention of a distinguished amateur while Court was yet an apprentice in his father's shop. Subsequently his parents consented to let him follow his tastes, making the sacrifices necessary for his education. In 1821 he gained the great Roman prize, and in 1827 his picture of "Antony showing the people Czesar's Blood-stained Toga." This canvas, which is one of the finet pages of history pro-duced by the modern school, is considered his master-piece. About 1830 he painted his " Boissy d'Anglas Saluting the Head of Ferand," and "Louis Philippe Swearing to the Charter." The latter piece—almost all the figures in which were strikingly life-like and correct portraits— was hung above the chair of the President of the Chamber of Deputies; but it was damaged dur-ing the disturbance of the 24th of February, 1848, and subsequently removed. Shortly afterwards Court, to the great regret of the admirers of his talent, abandoned the grand style of paintings for portraits and character pieces. He spent several years abroad, especially in Prussia, where his pieces met with great success.

A few years ago, Court exhibited his chief paintings in the gallery of the Boulevard des Italiens. The leading picture of that exhibition was a large piece representing "The Martyrdom of St. Agnes," and presenting a perfect pano-rama of the Roman forum as it was in the time of the Emperors. This picture, in which the science of the archeologist is combined with the taste and talent of the artist, would suffice of itself to prove that Court had not altogether renounced the grand style of painting. The brush of the painter of " The Death of Uæsar" is read-

ily recognizable in this canvas. To an exhibition held at Rouen two years since, Court contribited his " Charlotte Corday." In the last Paris exhibitions, several portraits from his easel were deservedly admired. The piece upon which he was last occupied was a painting representing "French Soldiers Ransoming Russian Prisoners," referring to those condemned to death by the famous Pacha Jamira, Ali Teleben. We are not aware whether he was able to complete this picture. He had contemplated its execution during several years.

Court was not only one of the most distinguished painters, but he was at the same time a thoroughly educated man of the world, of agreeable manners and was loved and esteemed by all who knew him.

Popery in England.

An English paper relates the following : Extraordinary doings continue to be reported in connection with the monastery of the English Order of St. Benedict, at Norwich. Thus the monks recently entertained several poor people to a good dinner of beef, pudding and ale, a nun and some sisters of the Mount Calvary Division of the Third Order superintending. About thirty sat down in the refectory. After vespers, the younger portion of the company spent the evening in amusing games, in which several el-der brothers of the Third Order joined. A game called "The Old Mail Coach," caused much merriment among the boys, Brother Ignatius himself telling the story and crying the forfeits. On another occasion there was an exposition of 'The Blessed Sacrament at the Altar of the Virgin and the Shrine of Bambino." On another day, the Infant Samuel was brought in, vested as a miniature priest, and was crowned with flowers. He was enthroned by the acolytes in front of the altar, and was waited upon during the service as if he were a little monarch for the time being. On the anniversary of the martyrdom of St. Thomas à Becket, Brother Ignatius preached a sermon in his honor, asserting that he was the saviour of the Church of England, and that his saviour of the Church of England, and that his blood-shedding communicated new life to the DR. ANDERSON'S NEW BOOK ON THE cause of the Gospel in England. Processions with the Bambino round the Convent premises, early communion with the Church of St. Lawrence, in connection with the services of the Rev. old maids. It is due to the Company to state | E. A. Hillyard, and a long and endless series of that this is not the tea thrown overboard in Bos-special services filled up the time of the monks. special services filled up the time of the monks. who, it is stated, received during the late festive season, plenty of good cheer from all parts of This tract embraces 65,000 acres of arable | the kingdom. The sister of Lord Stafford, who resides at Namur, in Belgium, has purchased a by competent Patagonian engineer. There are large mansion in Norwich, formerly occupied by 6,315 wells now producing, on each acre, whose | Captain Ives, for the purpose of adapting it to very edge of the tertiary formation, and passing through precious metals—platins, bismuth, na-

Brain Work and Longevity.

The philosophers ought to have length of days for their portion, seeing how their pursuits ought to elevate them above the disturbances of life. And such is, in fact, the operation of life, by which their faculties are furnished with constant entertainments on subjects which would seem to lie outside the range of uneasy passions, while creating or exciting the noblest moral emotion. An unusual amount of health and longevity is, in fact, found among philosophers-whether mathematicians, naturalists, or speculative students. Such things have been heard of as strife in these serene fields of thought; such sights have been seen as faces furrowed with fretfulness, or working with passion, but the old age of many philosophers is, at this moment, an honor to their

Peter Barlow was, when he lately died at 82, the same Peter Barlow that he had been to two generations of friends and disciples. Sir David Brewster is still occupied at the same age. The late Mr. Tooke did not trouble his brain about the currency too much to be still up to the subjeet at 86. Sir Roderick Murchison is past 70, and so is Sir J. Herschel. Literature ought to have the same operation as science; but it seems to have more room for agitations and anxieties, except in the case of authors who live in and with their works, exempt from self regard. Jacob Grimm was a very perfect example of the philosophic serenity which a literary career can yield, and he lived to 78.

There is something remarkable in the longevity of literary women in modern times, even if we look not beyond our own country. Mrs. Piozzi and Mrs. Delancy, perhaps scarcely enter within the conditions; and the still lamented Jane Austin was under an early doom from consumption ; but Miss Edgeworth was above 80 when she died; Joanna and Agnes Baillie were older still; and Mrs. Trollope died the other day at 84. The artists who have departed lately have been old Biot, who was 87, and Vernet, 74. Our Mulready was 76, and Cockerell, the architect, was 73 .- Once

ONE OF LAMB'S BEST .- Lamb once convulsed a company with an anecdote of Coleridge, which without doubt, he hatched in his hoax-loving brain. "I was" he said "going from my house at Enfield to the East India House one morning, when I met Coleridge on his way to pay me a visit. He was brimful of some new idea, and, in spite of my assuring him that time was precious, he drew me within the gate of an unoccupied garden by the button of my coat, and closing his eyes, commenced an eloquent discourse, waving his right hand gently as the musical words flowed in an unbroken stream from his lips. I listened, entranced; but the striking clock recalled me to a sense of duty. I saw it was of no use to attempt to break away; so, taking advantage of his absorption in his subject, and, with my penknife, quietly severing my button from my coat, I decamped. Five hours afterwards, in passing the same garden, on my way home, I heard Coleridge's voice; and, on looking in, there he was with closed eyes, the button in his fingers, and the right hand gracefully waving, just as when I left him. He had never missed

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